

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Makoto HIRATA et al.

Serial No. Continuation of no. 09/581,086

Filed: Herewith

For: PROCESS FOR PREPARING BUTANETRIOL DERIVATIVE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enter the instant amendment before initial examination and calculation of the filing fee.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 3, replace the first paragraph following the structural formulas with:

In the above formulae, R^1 and R^2 are, different from each other, protecting groups for alcohol and said protecting groups are such that only R^2 is removed when deprotection reaction is carried out. R^3 and R^4 are, the same or different, hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or phenyl, or may form a C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl group together with the adjacent carbon atom. X is halogen atom or sulfonyloxy group.